



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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### Patrick Administration Proposes Designation of Cape Cod Bay as Vessel No Discharge Area

*Area covering coastal waters from Provincetown to Marshfield would be state's  
largest boat sewage no-dumping zone*

BOSTON – Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Ian Bowles today announced he has submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the Patrick administration's proposal to create the Commonwealth's largest vessel No Discharge Area (NDA) – a 600-square-mile region from Provincetown to Marshfield where boats would make use of shoreside pump-out facilities and be prohibited from discharging any treated or untreated sewage into the ocean.

EEA submitted the Cape Cod Bay NDA application through its Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM), capping a year-long effort involving 10 communities, whalewatch operators, commercial anglers, and recreational boaters, as well as the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, and Nantucket Soundkeeper.

If approved by the EPA, the Cape Cod NDA would join a growing list of protected state waters. NDAs already cover the coastal waters of Plymouth, Kingston, Duxbury, and Harwich; Buzzards Bay; Waquoit Bay in Falmouth; Three Bays/Centerville Harbor in Barnstable; Chatham's Stage Harbor; Wellfleet Harbor; and coastal waters of Nantucket from Muskeget Island to Great Point. EPA is currently reviewing the Scituate-Cohasset-Marshfield and Salem Sound NDAs, and EEA also last week nominated Boston Harbor as an NDA. Related efforts to authorize NDAs are currently under way for the North Shore from Gloucester to Salisbury and Revere to Swampscott, and for Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds.

"Cape Cod is a jewel that attracts tourists from all over the world. My office is proud to partner with a number of grass-roots organizations on Cape Cod who have worked tirelessly to make this No Discharge Area a reality," Secretary Bowles said. "We are well on our way to meeting

Governor Patrick's goal of a statewide NDA covering all of the Commonwealth's coastal waters."

The Cape Cod Bay NDA covers an area that supports over 3,240 commercial and recreational boats. Once the NDA is approved, these vessels will be required to make use of four onshore and three boat sewage pump-out facilities located in Sandwich, Barnstable, Dennis, Orleans, Wellfleet, and Provincetown.

"In addition to helping the communities apply for this NDA, CZM's Coastal Pollutant Remediation Grant Program is funding two new pump-outs in Dennis and Provincetown," said CZM Director Leslie-Ann McGee. "These unique facilities are capable of serving both recreational and commercial vessels, and will be instrumental in making this NDA a success."

NDAs protect water quality and aquatic life from pathogens, nutrients, and chemical products contained in discharged sewage, and also reduce the risk of human illness, making it safer to swim, boat, fish, and eat shellfish from protected waters. NDAs can also impede the growth of harmful algae that occurs due to high nutrient levels in sewage discharge.

Under the Clean Water Act, a body of water can be designated an NDA if local, state, and federal authorities determine that the area is ecologically and recreationally important enough to merit protection above and beyond that provided by existing state and federal laws. In Massachusetts, EEA's CZM office works closely with communities and the EPA to establish NDAs as part of a comprehensive regional pollution abatement approach that includes wastewater management through local sewerage initiatives, stormwater mitigation, and low impact development strategies.

For more information on No Discharge Areas in New England please visit:

<http://mass.gov/czm/nda/index.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/nodiscrg/index.html>.

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